

Bedham Sept. 17, 1841.

My Dear Caroline:

I left off my history yesterday in the middle even as Chaucer left "half told" the story of Conhubenbold. I have but a short time to write before I must make up my sleeping, despatches for town - but in the meantime, here goes. I left off, I believe on Sunday morning. The meeting was held in a very pretty grove near the village. The day was like summer - perfectly warm & dry - one of the few days when an open-air meeting is perfectly safe. The people came pouring in in all sorts of vehicles & on foot. A large open waggon - like a four horse sleigh on wheels - served for a platform - Francis Jackson seated in the box as President. The number assembled would have been called by Whigs & Democrats had they owned them 2 or 3,000. - I suppose there were from 12 to 1500. It was a very pretty scene indeed. He began on the Constitution & the relation of those parts - one Fremont & Weston once a Whig minister who has exchanged the trucking of soals for the trucking of soles - bored us considerably for some time. That he was at length got rid of somewhat in <sup>the</sup> way in which the Irish suffering Speakers has been <sup>at times</sup> robbed of his rights. He then said that upon the table & went at the church & ministry. In the afternoon we continued on the same topic & Garrison made a long speech in which he pitched into the church & ministry proper & showed how Abolitionists had advanced



from one step to another until they had delivered them-  
selves from all thralldom of sect & priest-craft, with small  
touches of perpetuism throughout. After he had done I rose  
and set forth the true doctrine of platformism. The  
argument you may well imagine. It was not formally a  
reply to G. but substantially one. In conclusion I told them  
that when he spoke of Abolitionists believing so & so, that he  
did not mean to be understood that all Abolitionists  
believed so - but that this was the proof by what <sup>he &</sup> those who  
agreed with him had arrived at their present conclusion.  
That the Am. Shapt. A. S. Society welcomed every body who  
wished to attack Slavery & come & help them, preachers, people,  
clergy & laity, Popes & Cardinals, Kings & Kaisers, Princes  
& Peasants, all sorts of people without stopping to enquire  
into their right to the offices & powers they held, provided  
they used them in good faith for the Abolition of Slavery.  
The pinner assented in silence & all I said. Lundford Lane  
John Ballou followed, also W. Davis, the Universalist  
minister of whom I told you in my last, who made a very  
poor speech indeed. Garrison. Lockport & I dined with  
him & thought him a very good fellow. ~~Wednesday~~ In even-  
ing we held our meeting in his meetinghouse which was  
entirely filled. By the way, he had no services all day -  
having dispensed with them on our account. In evg we  
pitched into the Constitution & the three parties. Garrison  
showed up Clay & Polk in very handsome style & I did  
the same good office by Kirney. There was no opposition  
except from Kelly who spoke the night before & he was soon  
used up. Garrison, as he is apt to do, wanted to have  
the resolutions not acted upon - for fear that they would



not pass. But we helped them & they passed all but  
unanimously - all the Whigs voting for the resolution against  
the Democrats. The Democrats against the Whigs & both  
against the S.<sup>d</sup> Party. Altogether the thing went off in a most  
triumphant & satisfactory manner. All I wanted was done  
a score of you & enjoy the scoring victories as they occurred  
but which ~~Adams~~ never he recalled & recounted.

Garrison & I staid at Hopedale which is about a mile  
& a half from the village of Milford. The first night we  
staid at E. W. Stacy's & the second at Edwin Ballou's. I  
was very much pleased with the look of things there.  
The situation is very pretty - being a in a valley surround-  
ed by wooded hills. There is a picturesque old house in  
which they all originally lived for the first year or half.  
They have now six or seven cottages - in various styles  
without pretension but pretty enough - with gardens  
attached. They sell out homelots & each other with half an  
acre for gardens & cultivate the rest of the farm in common.  
They have a very excellent work shop - a substantial building  
of two stories with various sawing & planing machines worked  
by water ~~power~~ - the printing office above. They carry on a  
considerable business in these trades & in hatteries &c. They have  
a school-house which serves as Meeting House & Edwin Ballou  
keeps the school. They all seemed very contented. A considerable  
number still live in the old house - but will probably build  
themselves separate houses in due time. It still looks rough-  
ish about the fences &c as they have had no time as yet  
for ornaments. But when they have been able to attend  
to these things - to make pretty fences - a broad side-walk  
& to plant shade trees it will be a mighty pretty village.



I made inquiries as to the comparative care of living & its  
chenbells. They allowed that as yet it cost <sup>as much</sup> ~~more~~ to live  
there as in the world & that they had to work harder; but that  
they were very confident that it would soon be better ~~with~~ <sup>than</sup> them.  
They seemed entirely contented however to have plenty of everything  
requisite & necessary as well for the body as the soul. Sister  
Price I saw who is the Sabbath of the community - brother Price  
is a hatter so he ~~adorns~~ <sup>clothes</sup> the outside of the head while she  
adorns the inside - which I take to be a fair division of labor.  
She is a very modest well-behaved young woman and looks  
as if she had considerable talent. She has certainly improved  
amazingly in putting her senses together since the article  
I remember sending to some of you from the Practical Christian,  
two or three years ago. The last night I must have had a  
vision of no small significance - though like Nebuchadnezzar  
of old I cannot recollect what it was. James & I slept  
in the same room & in the course of the night I half awoke  
seems conscious of having said something & then I heard  
Harriet laughing as if he would die. I remember feeling  
half disposed to be affronted at this disrespectful treatment  
of what I had said, but ~~could~~ not take the trouble to wake  
up - so went off to sleep again. Next morning I asked her  
about I had been dreaming about & as I could not inform  
him - he said that he had just woke from a horrid  
dream when he heard me exclaim in a tone of the deepest  
astonishment - "What the deuce is that?" And then with a  
most decided emphasis, as if it were a proposition not  
to be controverted - "Well! I tell ye, it's no joke to  
have a Shower of darning-needles - especially on Sunday!"  
The regard for the Sabbath implied in these last words  
I must think eminently edifying. What the vision  
might have been - or what the interpretation thereof -  
having no prophet at hand, other than the man of the staff,  
I cannot tell. Peradventure it might typify the state



It is I mean that I decided as happening for want of sleep & from Lucia.  
But he meant kindly. No more at present except love talk and  
things in Milford. I may have made the explanation  
in the form of the Ling of the town. The darling - needle  
may well be judged to have meant the death of  
that had fallen upon the town in a storm - and the  
fact of its happening on a Sunday, certainly, made it  
next less of a joke than it would have been in any  
other ~~case of the~~ week.  
On Sunday morning we were taken for by the Redburn  
Coach & conveyed to Framingham where we were taken up  
by the Forester's Cart & conveyed to Boston. That is, I  
saw nothing of Emerson though I looked for him  
for him. Though he may have been in some back car.  
I would be pretty sure enough if he had been left behind.  
I brought with him, in his top, a pair of just built  
one of the younger brothers of the kind of table what he  
was carrying to one of his own descendants. Howard.  
Mr. (or Cousin J.) Phelps in the car talked with him  
most of the way. He is a very agreeable man & talks  
respectably well. Nothing could be more polite than  
his way of talking. The fact of his emancipation &  
his slave as the prompt & simple answer & declared  
any particular credit for it. I told him that he  
might expect to be nominated for the Presidency & that  
he had done as much as Lincoln & to deserve it. And  
he endeavored to explain that matter somewhat to him.  
He said that when he knew of his legacy of about  
his first impulse was to make a selection of those  
names whom he personally knew and whose names



on second thoughts remembering that the decision  
of the Judge involved the law, and that to the  
law he referred to leave it to the course of law  
as they should be. His father's slaves were divided  
into three lots of equal money value. He gave his  
agent directions to be guided in his choice by these  
considerations, 1<sup>st</sup> to choose the lot that had the  
greatest number in it & 2<sup>nd</sup> all this being equal  
to choose that that had the greatest number of women -  
maximally of women and their children as well  
as themselves. He said it had anticipated much  
trouble in prevailing upon some of them, especially  
those who had husbands or wives belonging to other  
estates to accept their freedom. But there was but one  
man who made any hesitation, while all the women so  
detached, evinced a most creditable alacrity, to leave  
their husbands for liberty. He said that he had made  
up his mind that if any of the men had chosen to  
remain slaves on this account he should let them do  
as they pleased, recognizing their right to be slaves  
if they liked it - he recognizing as his right to them.  
But that if the women had made any such objection  
he should have compelled them to take their freedom, on  
the ground that neither he nor they had any right to en-  
slave their children. This certainly admitted of an argu-  
ment on the ground of women's rights - but I could not  
find it in my heart to blame a man of the world  
like Dalrymple for it - especially as there arose no prac-  
tical difficulty. He said the slaves received the boon of  
freedom gladly & were perfectly ready, with the one exception,



ago. I believe, conquered his scruples, & come to the North. They  
stand at their own request till after harvest when they are to  
be sent on. He directed his agent to forward any who wished  
it home. I think Mr. Palmer was too good a man to remain  
a prisoner <sup>that</sup> he deserved his promotion to the Secretary-  
ship of states. He said that he was never treated with more  
marked attention & civility by the neighboring Quakers & by the  
gentlemen in New Orleans than on this visit - what he did  
not expect. They, as a whole, zealously respected & honored him  
for what he did.

On arriving in town I hastened to Mr. Chapman for news  
of dear old Lucia & Maria as I told you yesterday. I believe  
with the welcome news of her well doing - what may God  
bless & complete. I then went in hot haste to  
the U.S. office for a letter from Sydney, which I  
told him to tell me find him on my arrival.  
I had another to him ~~to tell me~~ to suggest the expediency of having  
some extras of my Review, ~~sent to him~~ struck off - about it went  
unadvertised in the morning paper I thought would meet with  
a ready sale from the ~~ships~~ <sup>with</sup> about the town will be filled  
this week. On arriving at the office & asking for it, Willard  
informed me that he had given it to Shovey just before.  
So off to Shovey I pulled & found that he had just come  
out of town - & the letter was porting out to Dedham  
just at the moment I wanted it most of all & annexed it!  
I think Lucia must allow this superhuman energy on  
the part of her Willard in my behalf to offset some  
of his misdeeds towards herself. So I had to write  
to Shovey without knowing what he had written & am  
much afraid that I may have bothered him. Can you



had talked in a vague sort of way about the expense  
of printing extras & advised the printing of additional copies  
which would be the cheapest way no doubt. But I found  
that Gay had adopted my plan I proposed printing on  
quarter sheet with only my article on it - 3000 of which  
would only cost \$10. & having them in town on the 4th for  
sale. I only hope that my letter will not reach him  
until it is too late for him to make any alteration  
in his plan. The great thing is to have them for sale

Sept 17. 1844

Send.

Miss Caroline Weston

Weymouth

W. Hall.

case in the morning. I think however  
he must have misread my letter as he  
could have perceived the object of the  
plan had he done so - for it was for all

tomorrow when the town will swarm with phreys  
with nothing to do & the church is better of their being  
there. I sent in the advertisements to Maria this  
morning to be sent to the Atlas, Post, & all places  
for tomorrow morning. Lydell intends to advertise  
them in New York. I don't believe it will cost us more  
than \$5. which I think will be well expended. Lydell  
seemed to me that his hydropathic reputation might be  
regarded as important to you. But I set his hunt at

Ms. A. 9.2.20.63